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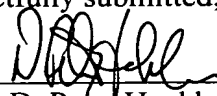
REMARKS

Please note that an IPE Written Opinion (PCT/IPEA/408) was issued May 19, 2000 by the European Patent Office. In response to this, an amendment amending four claims and canceling the fifth claim was submitted to the European Patent Office on August 18, 2000. An International Preliminary Examination Report with transmittal (PCT/IPEA/416 and PCT/IPEA/409) was issued on November 15, 2000, containing an Annex with an amended set of claims 1 through 4 and canceling claim 5. The four amended claims in the Annex are incorporated into this preliminary amendment and amended herein. In addition, one new claim, claim 5, has been added.

The English translation of the specification submitted herewith has headings inserted into it to enhance clarity and conformance with U.S. patent practice, but otherwise is an accurate translation of the original specification. Similarly, the foregoing amendments to the claims, including deleting the reference numbers, are made to place them in conformance with U.S. patent practice and to delete multiple-dependencies, thus reducing the government filing fee. A marked up version of the original amended claims is attached. Accordingly, prosecution on the merits hereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

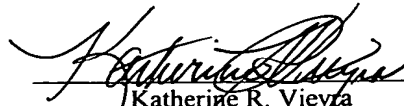

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DPH/ KRV/ Enc. and Attachment: Marked Up Claims
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EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment and any document(s) referred to as attached hereto is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service mailing Label Number EL148507752US, addressed: Box PCT, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: Feb. 20, 2001


Katherine R. Vieyra

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Klaus Schumann, Frank Seibertz and Peter Steinborn
 Serial No. :
 Filed : (Herewith)
 Title : METHOD FOR PRODUCING HEAT BONDED PACKAGES AND
 TOOL FOR IMPLEMENTING SAID METHOD
 Attorney File : RO0234US (#90568)

ATTACHMENT TO PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MARKED UP CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES RELATIVE TO THE ORIGINAL VERSION

1. (Amended) Process for producing hot-seal packs[, in particular] for transdermal therapeutic systems, by transporting, in a predetermined cycle through a sealing unit, two laps, a first lap and a second lap, of continuous pack material composed of two or more layers [and in each case] the first lap having a weldable polymer layer lying against the [other] second lap, and the second lap having a weldable polymer layer lying against the first lap, and, using a sealing tool [there] which acts upon both laps, in order to produce a weld along predetermined lines, bringing the laps into contact with pressure and with a temperature of above the melting point of the polymer, for a sealing period, [characterized in that] which process comprises:

increasing, while the cycle remains the same, [there is an increase in] the sealing period by a factor, [in particular a factor of two,] and

[in that there is a lowering of] the temperature of the heated sealing heads of the sealing tool being lowered in response to said increase of the sealing period, to reduce [(1, 2) such that there is a considerable reduction in] the temperature reached within the pack material [(3, 4), this] to a temperature [then being] only slightly above the melting point of the polymer layer [(8)].

2. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1, [characterized in that] further comprising [there

is also a reduction in] reducing the sealing pressure.

3. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1, [characterized in that,] further comprising

advancing, after the predetermined lines on the pack material [(3, 4)] have first been brought into contact with pressure and with heat, the pack material [is advanced] in the cycle and bringing said [these] lines on the pack material [are brought] into contact on [at least] a second occasion [or on further occasions] with pressure and with heat, using the same sealing period.

4. (Amended) Device for performing the process according to [any one of] Claim[s] 1[to 3], comprising a sealing unit with heated sealing tools and a transport device for the pack material, [characterized in that] wherein the sealing unit comprises a first and a second [two] cooperating, heated sealing head[s (1) and (2), said] the second sealing head [(2)] being arranged or configured on the side of the pack material [(3, 4)] facing away from the first sealing head [(1)], and said sealing heads having, in succession in the direction of advance, two or more identical contact area structures corresponding to the predetermined weld lines for transmitting temperature and pressure to the pack material [(3, 4)], with the length of one contact area structure in the direction of advance corresponding to the advancement cycle.